

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1066

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS BONN 10455

FOLLOWING TEL SENT BONN MAY 29TH REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1034

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UY, CGEN

SUBJECT: KLINGBEIL NOMINATION AS HONORARY URUGUAYAN
CONSUL IN BERLIN

REF: BONN 8365

1. IN CONSIDERING KLINGBEIL CASE, MISSION'S POINT OF
DEPARTURE IS THAT IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR ALLIES
TO SET SELVES UP AS JUDGES OF QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULAR
APPOINTEES IN BERLIN. WITH REGARD TO CAREER POSITIONS,
PRACTICE IS TO ACCORD TO SENDING STATE PREROGATIVE AND
RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMING WHETHER ONE OF ITS
OFFICIALS WOULD BE SUITABLE REPRESENTATIVE HERE. WE DO
NOT QUESTION SUCH JUDGMENTS. IN CASE OF HONORARY
CONSULAR NOMINATIONS, WHICH ALMOST INVARIABLY INVOLVE
GERMAN CITIZENS WHO ARE UNKNOWN TO ALLIES AND WHOSE TIES
WITH SENDING STATE OFTEN AMOUNT TO NO MORE THAN COLD
CASH NEXUS, SENAT RATHER THAN EITHER OF OTHER TWO
PARTIES CONCERNED IS IN BEST POSITION TO PASS ON
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QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER

HE WOULD MAINTAIN STANDARDS OF BERLIN CONSULAR CORPS. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS SITUATION, ALLIED MISSIONS REGULARLY SEEK SENAT ADVISE WHENEVER NOMINATION TO HONORARY CONSULAR POST IS RECEIVED. NORMALLY NO OBJECTIONS ARE RAISED; BUT WHEN THEY ARE--AND THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE AT LEAST IN RECENT PAST--WE BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD BE RESPECTED. THIS DOES NOT AMOUNT TO GIVING SENAT VETO OVER HONORARY CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS; NOR DOES IT CONSTITUTE "CAPRICIOUS" EXERCISE OF ALLIED PREROGATIVES. OUR ASSUMPTION CAN ONLY BE THAT SENAT IS RESPONSIBLE BODY, WHICH WOULD NOT VOICE OFFICIAL OBJECTIONS TO PARTICULAR NOMINATION LIGHT-HEARTEDLY OR WITHOUT DUE CAUSE. ALLIED DECISION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT KLINGBEIL SHOULD NOT, WE BELIEVE, BE BASED ON DETAILED EXAMINATION OF HIS PAST RECORD OR CURRENT BUSINESS PRACTICES: CENTRAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE THAT SENAT, BACKED BY CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, HAS RAISED SUBSTANTIAL OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION AND HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.

2. WE DOUBT STRONGLY WHETHER RENEWED APPROACH TO SENAT FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON KLINGBEIL'S UNSUITABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN THREATENING TONE SUGGESTED PARA E REFTEL, WILL SERVE ANY PURPOSE. OUR RECOMMENDATION THEREFORE REMAINS AS BEFORE; NAMELY, THAT ALLIES SHOULD REJECT NOMINATION, EXPLAINING TO URUGUAYANS--SHOULD THEY QUESTION DECISION--THAT KLINGBEIL DID NOT POSSESS APPROVAL OF OWN GOVERNMENT THAT HONORARY CONSUL NORMALLY REQUIRES IN ORDER TO SERVE ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN POWER. AS NOTED PARA A REFTEL, WE WOULD OWE NO EXPLANATION TO KLINGBEIL HIMSELF.

3. BASED ON RECENT EXCHANGES ON SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE THAT ABOVE POSITION WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY BRITISH MISSION HERE. FRENCH HAVE MORE OR LESS STOOD ON SIDELINES ON THIS ISSUE, AND WOULD APPARENTLY BE READY TO ACCEPT DECISION EITHER WAY. GEORGE.

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HILLENBRAND

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